

II. Mississippi Demographic Profile

This section provides descriptive and statistical information on the demographic characteristics of Mississippi according to the 1990 and 2000 Census by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Population

According to the 2000 Census, Mississippi had 2,844,658 people dispersed in 82 counties and 290 incorporated cities, towns, and villages. While 75 percent of the people live in one of the incorporated municipalities, 53 percent live in areas classified as rural by the Census Bureau. Less than 20 percent of the people live in a city with a population of 25,000 or more, and only one-third in a city of 10,000 or more. The state has three standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs): the Gulf Coast (Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties), the Jackson area (Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties), and the Hattiesburg area (Forrest and Lamar Counties). The Southaven-DeSoto County area is in the Memphis SMSA.

According to the 2000 Census, the gender composition was 48.3 percent male and 51.7 percent female. The racial composition was 61.4 percent white, 36.3 percent black, and 2.3 percent other races. Persons aged 65 or older made up 12.1 percent of the population. These data are reflected in the following table.

2000 Census Count: 2,844,658					
Whites	1,746,099	Blacks	1,033,809	Other	64,750
Males	855,944	Males	484,369	Male	33,241
Females	890,155	Females	549,440	Females	31,509
Estimated Population Over Age 65: 343,523					
Whites	254,384	Blacks	85,704	Other	3,435
Males	102,435	Males	32,026	Male	1,429
Females	151,949	Females	53,678	Female	2,006

Housing

The 2000 Census reported 1,161,953 housing units in Mississippi and an average occupancy of 2.45 persons per unit. By contrast, in 1990 there were 1,010,423 housing units, with an average occupancy of 2.55 persons. The average household size in 2000 was 2.63 persons; the average family size 3.14. Although there has been marked improvement in income, education, and housing, Mississippi remains well below the national average in these areas. According to most studies, these factors have a significant impact on the health care needs of a population. Therefore, any strategy to elevate the quality of health care in the state should bear these factors in mind.

Table II-1
Mississippi Non-Agricultural Employment and Job Openings
by Employment Sector
1998 to 2008

Employment Sector	Employment		Change 1998-2008		Average Annual Job Openings 1998-2008		
	Estimated 1998	Projected 2008	Absolute	Percent	Growth Openings	Separation Openings	Total
Self-employed and Unpaid Family Workers	66,320	63,460	(2,860)	(4.3)	0	1,235	1,235
Private Households	2,890	4,010	1,120	38.8	110	35	145
Mining	6,070	3,900	(2,170)	(35.7)	0	135	135
Construction	53,110	63,310	10,200	19.2	1,020	1,335	2,355
Manufacturing	205,770	213,680	7,910	3.8	800	4,525	5,325
Transportation, Communications and Utilities	53,350	61,190	7,840	14.7	785	1,135	1,920
Wholesale Trade	47,040	55,090	8,050	17.1	810	1,040	1,850
Retail Trade	196,990	222,460	25,470	12.9	2,555	6,465	9,020
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	39,650	40,930	1,280	3.2	125	900	1,025
Services ¹	444,700	512,140	67,440	15.2	6,760	9,600	16,360
Government	122,330	125,230	2,900	2.4	285	2,750	3,035
Total Non-Agriculture²	1,227,660	1,363,270	135,610	11.0	13,575	29,090	42,665

¹Includes Local and State Government, Education, and Hospital Employment.

²Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Mississippi Statewide and Selected Sub-State Areas Employment and Job Openings, 1998-2008, August 2000.

Employment

Employment increased from 1,290,400 persons in April 2002 to 1,312,100 in April 2003, a 1.68 percent increase, while the unemployment rate decreased from 6.4 percent to 6.0 percent, according to the Mississippi Employment Security Commission's *Labor Market Data* report, published in May 2003. The national unemployment rate was 5.8 percent. The average civilian labor force was 1,312,100 for the 12-month period ending April 2003.

Nineteen counties recorded double-digit unemployment rates in April 2003, a decrease from 23 the prior year. Thirty-one counties bettered the statewide rate of 6.0 percent for the month. Jefferson County reported the highest unemployment rate, at 17.7 percent, followed by Holmes at 15.5, Wilkerson at 14.6, Webster at 14.6, and Noxubee at 14.1 percent. Lamar County had the lowest rate at 2.7 percent, followed by Rankin at 3.2, Oktibbeha at 3.4, DeSoto at 3.8, and Forrest at 3.9 percent. Table II-1 presents other data pertaining to employment.

Income

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that Mississippi ranked 50th among the states in median household income and median family income, according to the 2000 Census. In 2001 inflation-adjusted dollars, the median family income was \$39,520, more than \$11,000 less than the \$50,844 for the United States. The median household income was \$32,153, while the national average was \$42,317. Per capita income as reported in the 2000 Census was \$15,853, compared to \$21,587 for the U.S. Approximately 16 percent of Mississippi families lived below the poverty level, compared to 9.2 percent for the U.S. Table II-2 shows additional information on poverty for individuals and families.

Education

According to the 2000 Census, high school graduation rates in Mississippi rose to 74.3 percent in 2000, from 64.3 percent in 1990, a gain of ten points, although the state is below the national rate of 81.6 percent. Approximately 18.6 percent of Mississippians over 25 years of age hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 25.1 percent for the United States.

Table II-2
**Persons and Families by Poverty Status,
Mississippi and United States
1999, 1989, and 1979**

Area	Number of Families Below Poverty Level (in thousands)			Percent Below Poverty Level					
				Persons			Families		
	1999	1989	1979	1999	1989	1979	1999	1989	1979
United States	6,828	6,488	5,646	12.5	13.1	12.5	9.6	10.0	9.6
Mississippi	104	137	120	18.2	25.2	23.9	14.3	20.2	18.7

Source: Population Census, Bureau of the Census